

U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal

Security Message for U.S. Citizens - Violent Crimes in Tambacounda

March 7, 2014

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar wishes to inform U.S. citizens residing in Senegal about a series of murders reported in and around the city of Tambacounda, 250 miles south east of Dakar. Between October 2013 and February 2014, six murders with similar modus operandi have taken place: all victims were mentally handicapped, in most cases the victims' suffered blunt force trauma to the head, and some internal organs were harvested from their bodies. Due to the specific nature of the crimes, the local gendarmeries believe that the killings are likely ritualistic and related. According to Gendarmerie High Commander, the Tambacounda Research Section is actively involved in investigating these murders.

While it does not appear that the crimes target foreigners or specifically U.S. citizens, the U.S. Embassy will continue to monitor this situation. We remind U.S. citizens to practice good security habits including maintaining good situational awareness, properly securing your residence, avoiding crowds and demonstrations, monitoring local news outlets and reviewing emergency procedures, travel documents, and contingency plans.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Senegal enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP) at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. You can stay in touch by checking the [U.S. Embassy Dakar website](#).

Regularly monitor the [State Department's website](#) where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warning](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#), or you can download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.. If you don't have internet

access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies, Dakar, and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to <mailto:DakarACS@state.gov>. For after hours emergencies, please call Tel: +221-33-879-4444 and ask to speak to the duty officer.